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September 13, 2001

File 1230.9

Mr. Lake H. Barrett, Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
US Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

SEP 26 2001

Dear Mr. Barrett:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the possible recommendation of the Secretary to the President regarding developing Yucca Mountain as the repository for spent nuclear fuel. It is our firm belief that the Department of Energy needs to move forward expeditiously with the development of Yucca Mountain. We were reminded again this winter that the price of natural gas has the risk of huge price increases. We received a shocking reminder this week that the availability of Middle Eastern oil to the US could be dramatically curtailed due to the unstable political situation and terrorism. It is critical for economic and defense interests that the US has a long-term nuclear power industry and Yucca Mountain is a foundation for that.

ElectriCities is an association of cities that own electric distribution systems. Fifty-one of those cities own significant interest in nuclear power plants. Currently we are storing spent fuel on sight but believe this is not an acceptable long-term solution. It makes much more sense to have one national repository in a location that meets the necessary scientific standards than to have over 100 temporary sites nationally, none of which meet the long-term scientific standards.

Based on my staff's analysis of the scientific data coming from Yucca Mountain, in addition to a site visit, we believe that the scientific evidence provides an adequate basis for the Administration to find that Yucca Mountain is suitable for development of a repository.

Good luck with this process.

Sincerely,

Jesse C. Tilton, III
Chief Executive Officer.

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